



**CITY OF BUCKEYE  
COUNCIL WORKSHOP  
SEPTEMBER 15, 2015  
MINUTES**

**City Council Chambers  
530 E. Monroe Ave.  
Buckeye, AZ 85326  
3:45 p.m.**

**1. Call to Order/Roll Call**

Mayor Meck called the meeting to order at 3:45 p.m.

**Members Present:** Councilmember Strauss (excused at 5:22 p.m.; returned at 5:24 p.m.), Councilmember Hess (excused at 4:39 p.m.; returned at 4:42 p.m.), Councilmember McAchran, Councilmember Heustis, Vice Mayor Orsborn (arrived at 4:03 p.m.; excused at 4:25 p.m.; returned at 4:27 p.m.), and Mayor Meck.

**Members Absent:** Councilmember Garza.

**Departments Present:** City Manager Stephen Cleveland, Assistant City Manager Roger Klingler, City Attorney Scott Ruby, City Clerk Lucinda Aja, Deputy City Clerk Summer Stewart, Assistant to Council Carol Conley, Fire Chief Bob Costello, Public Works Director Scott Lowe, Government Relations Manager George Diaz, and Chief Communications Officer Jennifer Rogers.

*Workshop Items were discussed out of sequence.*

- 2. Presentation on the DRAFT Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the Arizona Municipalities of Buckeye, Goodyear, Avondale, Glendale, El Mirage, Youngtown, Surprise, Peoria and Litchfield Park and the Integrated Medical Services (IMS) Arizona Marathon Committee**  
**Staff Liaison: Stephen Cleveland, City Manager**  
**District No. All**

Mr. Klingler opened the presentation and discussed the draft IGA; IMS Arizona Marathon would like the City of Buckeye, and several other municipalities, to support and promote the marathon. Mr. Klingler stated an issue that will be addressed is the potential time limits the IGA may impose that would affect the Buckeye Marathon scheduled in December, 2015. Debra Undhjem with IMS Arizona Marathon provided information related to the IGA. Ms. Undhjem stated Mayors from other cities have expressed an interest in promoting the marathon as a west valley event. Statistics from the marathon, along with its benefits, were listed; the IMS Arizona Marathon began in 2009. Media and marketing efforts were summarized. General discussion was held regarding the Arizona Marathon, the Buckeye Marathon, time frames for each, the benefits of a partnership, and the components of the draft IGA.

- 3. Gila River Restoration Program Update**  
**Staff Liaison: Adam Copeland, Senior Planner**  
**District No. All**

Mr. Copeland provided an overview of the presentation and introduced Tim Boyd with Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD), Wildlife Contracts Branch. Mr. Boyd provided a summary of the in-lieu fee (ILF) program; benefits include collaborations with other public and private entities,

third party funding, and restoration implementation on City properties with little or no expense to the City. Current restoration projects consist of Chevelon Creek Wildlife Area, Arlington Wildlife Area, Powers Butte, and Lowe San Pedro Wildlife Area; each project was summarized. Common strategies to all projects include placement of exclusionary fencing to protect sensitive areas and restoration sites, non-native removal, and establishment of native vegetation. Site selection, ecological, regulatory, and financial risks were discussed. Limiting factors and important aspects of the ILF project were provided. Steps for moving forward with the Gila River Restoration Project include preparing conceptual mitigation and monitoring plan, preparing a cost per acre for credits for sale at project site, obtaining approval from US Army Corps of Engineers, developing a mechanism to invest funds received in an income generating mechanism to ensure viability of a long term endowment, obtaining approval from AGFD director, begin selling advance credits for project site, prepare full mitigation and monitoring plan, and begin implementing restoration. Mr. Copeland discussed the increased activity and interest in the project. Kevin Kugler with Michael Baker Jr., Inc. discussed the purpose of the workshop and provided information related to community input that has been received regarding the project. Three scenarios were presented and discussed; renderings of each scenario were provided. Scenario 1 plan highlights were summarized and include the Apache Road alignment that acts as the "grand boulevard gateway", the plan has higher residential densities that are focused around the center of the study area, an "urban green" large park flanked by mixed use that interfaces with lakes; the plan is centered around a transect of neighborhood themes that transition from east to west. Scenario 2 plan highlights were listed and include low density, rural residential uses that are concentrated along the north bank of the river to promote a scenic river character, community connection channels; the plan is centered around preserving the rural qualities of the El Rio corridor. Scenario 3 plan highlights include a mixture of urban, suburban, and rural residential densities that take advantage of the river edge and cater to a variety of lifestyles, the employment core is centrally located, and the plan is focused on the blending of urban elements with rural qualities. General discussion was held regarding the three separate scenarios, highlights of each scenario, and potential access points to the area.

#### **4. Adjournment**

A motion was made by Councilmember Strauss and seconded by Councilmember Hess to adjourn the meeting at 5:49 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

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Jackie A. Meck, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Lucinda J. Aja, City Clerk

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the Council Workshop held on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2015. I further certify that a quorum was present.

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Lucinda J. Aja, City Clerk